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MILVERTON,

Feb. 3rd, 1909.

Gentlemen,

I have the privilege of presenting to your Council my Annual Report on the Rural District of Wellington, for the year 1908.

The chief feature of interest in this report is the exceptionally low death rate that has prevailed during the past year; it has, in fact, fallen as low as 9.3 per 1,000, and is, I believe, the lowest death rate that has been recorded since the year 1874, when the Rural Sanitary Authority of Wellington commenced to hold office, and first appointed a Medical Officer of Health.

Births.

The total number of births during the year is 118, producing an annual birth rate of 18.7 per 1,000; this is below the average, the average birth rate for the last ten years being 22.67 per 1,000.

Deaths.

Only 59 deaths have been registered in the district during the year. This produced, as stated above, the exceedingly low death rate of 9.3 per 1,000, the average death rate for the previous ten years being 13.6 per 1,000. Not only during the year 1908 have the deaths been less, but I am quite certain that there has been less ordinary sickness prevailing amongst all classes of people during the past year than is generally the case. It would be idle to speculate as to the cause of this happy state of affairs, but the fact remains, and we must congratulate ourselves upon it.

To the Wellington Rural District Council.



### Infant Mortality.

During the year, 10 infants have died under the age of one year, producing an annual infant mortality rate of 84.74; this is somewhat high for our district (though not as high as in the preceding year), the average rate for the last ten years being 78.25.

### Causes of Death.

Out of the 59 deaths which form our annual death rate, I find that:-

3	persons	died	of	Phthisis;
9	,,	,,	,,	Cancer;
11	,,	,,	,,	Inflammatory diseases of the chest;
6	,,	,,	,,	Heart disease;
2	,,	,,	,,	Accidents;
1	,,	,,	,,	Suicide;

The remaining 27 from causes that call for no comment.

### Ages at Death.

10	persons	died	under	one	year;
2	,,	,,	from	1	to 5 years;
1	,,	,,	,,	5	to 15 ,,
2	,,	,,	,,	15	to 25 ,,
18	,,	,,	,,	25	to 65 ,,
26	,,	,,	,,	65	and upwards.

### Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

18 cases of infectious disease have come under my notice during the year, that is to say, those notified to me and those in my own practice. 10 of these were cases of Diphtheria, 4 Erysipelas, and 4 Scarlet Fever. Of these ten cases of Diphtheria, seven occurred in a farmhouse in the Western portion of the parish of Milverton. There can be no doubt that these seven children were all infected by the inhalation of sewer gas, through the faulty construction of an indoor closet; fortunately none of them died, and the premises were speedily put into a sanitary condition. The other three cases occurred also





in Milverton, though there was no connection between these cases and those at the farm. In two of these cases insanitary conditions were found amply to account for this disease. The cause of the other case was not so easy to attribute.

Two of the Scarlet Fever cases occurred in the outlying portion of the parish of Wiveliscombe, and two in Milverton. They were, I am inclined to think, mild cases, and in no instance did the infection spread to others in or outside the houses.

Nothing in the character of an epidemic has visited our district during the past year, and no schools have been closed on account of infectious disease.

#### Sewerage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.

No very extensive work has been undertaken by your Council during the past year; some minor work of drainage has been effected at Nynhead. Many closets and cesspits have been condemned by me during the year, and earth closets have been erected in their stead.

Your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Richards, reports that 45 nuisances have been brought before your Council by him during the year, and that, with few exceptions, these have been abated, and that the orders of your Council have been carried out.

Besides these 45 nuisances, many have been reported to your Council by myself, and have, I believe, all been remedied.

The usual sanitary inspections have been made in the district during the year by your Inspector and myself, and all necessary matter brought before the notice of your Council.

#### Water Supply.

The Milverton water now supplies over 200 houses, and as the original supply was not considered adequate to meet the increasing demand made upon it, your Council have added to the reservoir, another spring yielding from 4,000 to 5,000 gallons per day. This spring has been given by Colonel Sanford, upon certain conditions; and will be of considerable

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advantage to the town during the summer and autumn months.

The Blackmoor and Fitzhead water supply continues to give satisfaction, and works well. The Langley supply is also satisfactory. Several wells (at Hill Common and West Buckland) have been condemned as unfit for drinking purposes.

#### Home Workers.

There are only eight in the district. These have all been visited by me, but in no instance was there any insanitary condition, contagious disease, or any other matter to report upon.

#### Houses of the Working Classes.

During the year, 14 new cottages or small houses have been erected in the district. I regret, however, to say that many more are needed, and, considering the fact that cottages are always let before they are finished building, I would suggest building in this neighbourhood as a lucrative speculation. Out of these 14 new houses, seven are erected at Langford Budville, materially improving the social and sanitary condition of this village.

In two instances have houses been condemned by me as unfit for human habitation, and in two cases have owners been called upon to put their cottages in a state of repair.

#### Slaughter Houses, Bake Houses, Dairies and Workshops.

These have been periodically inspected by your Inspector and myself, and in the few instances where insanitary conditions have been found to exist, prompt measures have been immediately taken to remedy the soil.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*Charles R. Joseph*







TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

Name of District Wellington Rural

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898.	6615	141	21.3	10	70.9	89	13.4					
1899.		156	23.5	15	96.15	96	14.5					
1900.		158	23.8	11	69.6	83	12.5					
1901.	6277	150	23.8	17	113.3	92	14.6					
1902.		154	25	6	38.2	83	13.2					
1903.		134	21.3	9	67.1	70	11.1					
1904.		141	22.4	8	56.7	82	13.06					
1905.		143	22.7	14	97.9	83	12.5					
1906.		115	18.3	8	69.5	71	11.3					
1907.		155	24.6	16	103.2	94	14.9					
Averages for years 1898-1907.		144.7	22.67	11.4	78.39	84.3	13.1					
1908.		118	18.7	10	84.74	59	9.3					

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area covered by water).

33906

Total population at all ages

6277

Number of inhabited houses

1447

Average number of persons per house

4.34

At Census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ? \_\_\_\_\_

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

Name of District *Wexham & Cotham*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. _____				2. _____				3. _____				4. _____				5. _____				6. _____				7. _____			
YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898	6615141	1415	65	10																								
1899	15696	15																										
1900	15888	11																										
1901	6277150	92	17																									
1902	157836																											
1903	13470	2																										
1904	14182	14																										
1905	14383	14																										
1906	11571	8																										
1907	15594	16																										
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.																												
1908	11859	10																										

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms “resident” and “non-resident.”)

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.







TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

Name of District *Weevington Rural*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							* * NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.							
	At all Ages.	At Age†—Years.				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.															
Small-pox ...																				Total cases removed to Hospital.
Cholera ...																				
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	10	2	7	1	3	1														
Erysipelas ...	4																			
Scarlet fever ...	4		4																	
Typhus fever ...																				
Enteric fever ...																				
Relapsing fever ...																				
Continued fever ...																				
Puerperal fever ...																				
Plague ...																				
*																				
Totals ...	18	2	11	4	1															

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. The name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided should also be given. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

\* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

+ These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

\*\* Column 8 should be filled up with the Totals of cases removed to Hospital, whether the District is divided into separate localities or consists of only one undivided area.

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Isolation Hospital—*Name and Situation*

*Total available beds*

*Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated*



## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Name of District Washington Rural  
(See Notes at Back.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON-RESIDENTS" IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox ...															
Measles ...															
Scarlet fever ...															
Whooping-cough ...															
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)															
Croup ...															
(Typhus ...															
Fever { Enteric ...															
(Other continued															
Epidemic influenza ...															
Cholera ...															
Plague ...															
Diarrhœa. (See notes at back.)	1	1													
Enteritis. (See notes at back.)															
Puerperal fever. (See notes at back.)															
Erysipelas ...															
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis.)	3					3									
Other tuberculous diseases.															
Cancer, malignant disease. (See notes at back.)	9					4	5								
Bronchitis ...															
Pneumonia ...	11	2	2			2	5								
Pleurisy ...															
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.															
Alcoholism }															
Cirrhosis of liver }															
Venereal diseases ...															
Premature birth ...	1	1													
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...															
Heart diseases ...	6			1		1	4								
Accidents ...	2				1	1									
Suicides ...	1					1									
All other causes ...	25	6			1	6	12								
All causes ...	59	10	2	1	2	18	26								



## NOTES TO TABLES IV. AND V.

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- (a) In Table IV., all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of Table IV.
- (b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" in Table IV. should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of Table IV. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of Table IV. should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of Table IV. should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- (e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths registered as due to Epidemic diarrhœa, Epidemic enteritis, Infective enteritis, Zymotic enteritis, Summer diarrhœa, Dysentery and Dysenteric diarrhœa, Choleraic diarrhœa, Cholera and Cholera Nostras.
- Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.
- Deaths from Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis, and Gastritis (see under the heading Diarrhœal Diseases in Table V.) in Tables IV. and V. should be placed immediately below, but separately from, those enumerated under the heading Diarrhœa as defined by enumeration above. This is particularly important for deaths under one year of age, as many of the deaths in infancy returned as due to Enteritis are really caused by Epidemic Diarrhœa. In the course of years, by the adoption of this recommendation, it will be practicable to ascertain the probable amount of transfer between these different headings.
- (f) Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms. Thus: Under "Cancer" should be included deaths from Cancer, Carcinoma, Malignant disease, Scirrhus, Epithelioma, Sarcoma, Villous tumour, and Papilloma of bladder, Rodent ulcer. Under "Puerperal Fever" are to be included deaths from Pyæmia, Septicæmia, Sepsis, Pelvic peritonitis, Peri- and Endo-Metritis occurring in the Puerperium.
- (g) Under "Congenital Defects" in Table V. are to be included deaths from Atelecctasis, Icterus neonatorum, Navel hæmorrhage, Malformations and Congenital hydrocephalus.
- (h) Under "Tuberculous Meningitis" are to be included deaths from Acute hydrocephalus.
- (i) Under "Other Tuberculous Diseases" are to be included deaths from Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis of bones, joints and other organs, Lupus and Scrofula.
- (j) All deaths certified by registered Medical Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified"; all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."

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In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., IV. and V., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 1909.



Table V.

V.

Wellington Rural Borough.  
District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

(See Notes at back of Table IV.)

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified ...	...																	
	Uncertified ...	...																	
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ...	...																	
	Chicken-pox ...	...																	
	Measles ...	...																	
	Scarlet Fever ...	...																	
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	...																	
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases. (See Notes to Table IV.)	Whooping Cough ...	...																	
	Diarrhoea, all form ...	...							/										/
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...	...																	
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...	...																	
	Premature Birth ...	...	/																/
	Congenital Defects (See Notes to Table IV.) ...	...																	
	Injury at Birth ...	...																	
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ...	...																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...																	
	Tuberculous Meningitis... (See Notes to Table IV.)	...																	
v. Other Causes.	Tuberculous Peritonitis; Tabes Mesenterica ...	...																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases (See Notes to Table IV.) ...	...																	
	Erysipelas ...	...																	
	Syphilis ...	...																	
	Rickets ...	...																	
	Meningitis(not Tuberculous) ...	...																	
	Convulsions ...	...	/					/		/									3
	Bronchitis... ..	...							/			/							2
	Laryngitis... ..	...																	
	Pneumonia ...	...																	
	Suffocation, overlying ...	...																	
	Other Causes ...	...	/						/		/								3
			3					1	3	1	1	1							10

District (or sub-division) of Wellington Population. 6277  
 Estimated to middle of 1908  
 Births in the year { legitimate 3118 Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 310  
 { illegitimate 59 { illegitimate infants 10  
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 59

